



Roanoke County Fire & Rescue

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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ROANOKE COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE RECEIVES 2005 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EMS CALL OF THE YEAR

(November 14, 2005) Roanoke County– Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department has been awarded *EMS Outstanding Call of the Year* for leading an interagency effort that saved a Catawba man's life after his leg was so badly entangled in a tractor auger that it had to be amputated. Chief Richard E. Burch, and EMS Battalion Chief Dustin Campbell, who was the incident commander, accepted this esteemed award at the 2005 EMS Symposium on Saturday evening in Norfolk, Virginia.

The incident for which the award was presented began in the morning hours of January 1, 2005 in the pastures of a Catawba farm. A 38 year old man somehow got his leg so terribly entangled in a power take off unit (PTO) drive shaft powering an auger on a tractor, that the only way to save his life was to remove his leg. The seamless interagency effort made on this day allowed this man to live to tell about his amputation in a Catawba pasture.

After Roanoke County Fire and Rescue provided critical patient assessment and treatment through the coordination of numerous assisting agencies the man was flown to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery for the formal amputation of his leg. As of today, the patient is back at home and doing very well.

This tremendous incident involved preserving life through the coordination of multiple emergency medical agencies. Those involved included Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department, Masons Cove Volunteer Rescue Squad, Masons Cove Volunteer Fire Company, Catawba Volunteer Fire Company, Med-Flight III (Virginia State Police Helicopter), Sydney Vail, MD-Carilion Trauma Surgeon, Ted Georges, MD, and Julie Georges, RN.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER CONLEY SEXTON

Chief Richard E. Burch, Jr. (middle) and EMS Battalion Chief Dustin Campbell (right) accept the 2005 Governor's Award for Outstanding EMS Call of the Year from Scott Winston, Assistant Director of OEMS.

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